National Environmental Assessment Reporting System

NEARS Set 1 & Set 2 – Cover Sheet



General Information						
Reporting Agency:			NORS Submitted?			
Manager Interview Conducted?			Facility Observations Conducted?			
Agency Contact Name:				Ema	ail:	
Facility Information						
Facility Name & Address:						
Does the food establishment have	multiple	e locations	s?		Were other loo	cations contacted?
If Yes, describe the contact with ot	her fac	ilities:				
Total number of food workers:		Number	of ill food	worke	ers:	Number of food workers tested:
Exposure Information		T				
Date of First Meal:		Time of F	First Meal	• •		Multiple Meal Dates?
Was the EA conducted at a similar	time to	when the	suspecte	d foo	d was served or	prepared?
Meal Consumed		.unch [Dinner		Brunch	her:
Number Exposed:		Number	of III:	Number of III Tested:		Number of III Tested:
Incubation:	Duration	ion:		Note : Indicate the median incubation period among primary cases. Include units (minutes, hours, or days)		
Symptoms:						
Previous Routine Inspection			ı			
Previous Routine Inspection Date: Note: Submit a Red/Blue Form if one was completed during the EA.						
Previous Routine Inspection Score	:	Total Poin	ıts:	F	Red Points:	Blue Points:
□N/A		1	<i>f Other</i> , d	escrik	oe:	
Notification Information						
Date Local Health Notified:			Custome		FE FINS	Surveillance Other:
Date DOH Food Safety Notified:					oint None Other:	
Briefly summarize this outbreak investigation.						

Food Flows Use this space to show the food flow for each suspected/confirmed food. RTE foods may be grouped together. Include and identify the risk factors for each prep step, circle where evidence supports a contributing factor and indicate all <i>verified</i> temperatures (HH, CH, RH, Cooking). Use a standard flow chart or a narrative describing where the risk factors and contributing factors were identified.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NEARS) INSTRUMENT, V04 2022

Set 1

Part I - General Characterizations

Part II - Establishment characterization Part Va - Suspected/Confirmed Foods Part Vb - Suspected/Confirmed Ingredients Part VI - Positive Samples Part VII - Contributing Factors

OMB No.: 0920-0980 Exp. Date: 02/28/2026

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: CDC/ATSDR Information Collection Review Office, MS D-74; 1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30333; ATTN: PRA (0920-0980)

Part	Description
Part I- General characterization of the outbreak and outbreak response	Complete this section for each outbreak, in consultation with the investigation team, at the end of the investigation.
Part II- Establishment characterization, categorization, and menu review	Complete this section for each establishment linked with an outbreak. Complete this section after the establishment observation and manager interview are conducted, and sampling activities are complete.
Part III- Manager interview	Complete this section for each establishment linked with an outbreak. Conduct an establishment manager interview as soon as possible after the establishment is identified for an environmental assessment. Read all bold text aloud.
Part IV- Establishment observation	Complete this section for each establishment linked with an outbreak. Conduct an establishment observation as soon as possible after the establishment is identified for an environmental assessment. These questions are based on the observation of the establishment and the food handling practices at the time of the initial environmental assessment and not those thought to have been in place at the time of the exposure. Data collection should occur during the establishment's hours of operation.
Part Va- Suspected/confirmed foods	Complete this section for each suspected/confirmed food.
Part Vb- Suspected/confirmed foods, ingredients	Complete this section for each ingredient in the suspected/confirmed food(s).
Part VI- Positive samples	Complete this section for each positive sample.
Part VII- Contributing factors	Complete this section for each contributing factor identified in the outbreak.

Notes:

Throughout the data collection instrument, boxes (\square) mean that there could be multiple answers to the question, while circles (\bigcirc) mean that there is only one answer to the question.

<u>Part I- General characterization of the outbreak and outbreak response:</u> Complete this form for each outbreak, in consultation with the investigation team, at the end of the investigation.

Outbreak description						
	 Did the exposure(s) take place in a single or multiple locations (ex: one restaurant or two or more restaurants, one restaurant or a restaurant and a school)? 					
2. Did the exposure(s) occur in a single s	O Single O Multiple					
3. Did the exposure(s) happen in a single counties/townships/parishes?	e county/towns	ship/parish or multiple	○ Single ○ Multiple			
4. How many food service establishment with this outbreak?	locations with	nin your jurisdiction were associated	#:			
5. How many environmental assessment in your jurisdiction as a part of this out		cted at food service establishments	#:			
	5a. If <u>no</u> environmental assessments were conducted: Why were no environmental assessments conducted at food service establishments in your jurisdiction as a part of this outbreak?					
6. How many non-food service establish outbreak?	ments in your	jurisdiction were associated with this	#:			
6a. If non-food service establishment outbreak: How many environmenta establishments in your jurisdiction establishments include food distribution plants, or farms.)	ts were conducted at non-food service outbreak? (Non-food service	#:				
7. Was a primary agent identified (suspe	cted or confire	med) in this outbreak?	O Yes, confirmed			
(Agents are considered confirmed if they https://www.cdc.gov/ foodsafety/outbreak		O Yes, suspected O No				
7a. If a primary agent was identified: What was the identified agent?						
O Hepatitis A O Salmonella						
O Bacillus cereus	O Bacillus cereus O Shigella					
○ Campylobacter	O Staphylod	coccus aureus				
O Clostridium perfringens	O Vibrio par	rahaemolyticus				
O Cryptosporidium	Yersinia					
O Cyclospora	O Ciguatera	toxin				
O E. coli 0157:H7	O Scombroto	oxin				
O E. coli STEC/VTEC	O Toxic age	ent, Describe:				
O Listeria	O Chemical	hazard, Describe:				
O Norovirus	O Physical h	nazard, <i>Describe:</i>				
	O Other, De	escribe:				
8. Was this outbreak reported to a state of Program?	or local Comm	nunicable Disease Surveillance	O Yes O No			
8a. If the outbreak was reported to a state or local program: Select the state or local surveillance program(s) where this outbreak was reported. (Check all that apply) State – outbreak reporting number assigned by the state: Local – outbreak reporting number assigned by the jurisdiction:						
		Other, Describe:				

9. Was this outbreak reported to a national surveillance system? Yes O No OFFICE USE ONLY							O OFFICE USE ONLY	
9a. If the outbreak was reported to a national program: Select the national surveillance program(s) where this outbreak was				NORS - STATEID: OFFICE USE ONLY				
	record the corresp							
	nber. (Check all th			Pulsel	Net – out	break o	code:	
				Calicil	Net – out	break r	number:	
				Other,	Describ	e:		
Suspected/confirme	ed food							
10. Was a specific in food suspected or					Complete cods	Parts	Va and Vb, Suspected/Confirmed	
10a. If an ingredie	nt/food was <u>not</u> su	spected or co	onfirn	ned: Ex	plain wh	y this o	outbreak was considered foodborne.	
11. Provide any comments that would help describe the foods involved in this outbreak.					utbreak.			
Contributing factors	s/other							
12. Were any contributing factors identified in this outbreak?			Yes Complete Part VII, Contributing Factors No					
13. What activities we the outbreak investidentify the contril all that apply)		heck Interpretation in the control of the control o	ervie tablis ervie tablis oserv epara tablis od p	ews with shment ration of ation ac shment reparat ed base	n manage n worker(s f general tivities d	s) I food uring w ology	 ☐ Food sampling ☐ Clinical sampling ☐ Epidemiologic investigation (case-control or cohort study) ☐ Interviews with cases (but not controls) ☐ Traceback ☐ Other, Describe: 	
				e food r	egulator	y progr	am and the communicable	
	during this outbrea	_	on.	\sim		\circ		
O Very poor	Poor	○ Fair	G	O Good	Ver) y good	There was no communication	

☐ Poor facility layout ☐ Lack of sick leave or other financial incentives to					
☐ Lack of sick leave or other financial incentives to					
adhere to good practices					
 □ Lack of needed supplies for the operation of the restaurant □ Insufficient process to mitigate the hazard □ Employees or managers are not following the facility's process □ Food not treated as TCS (may include non-TCS foods that have been contaminated) □ Other, Describe: 					
16. Briefly describe any other information about the underlying causes of the outbreak (ex: order of environmental antecedents).					
? Yes O No					
The definition of the food Changed operational practice Repaired/replaced/removed equipment tized/disinfected Embargoed food products Public notification Other, Describe: ious workers					

<u>Part II- Establishment characterization, categorization, and menu review:</u> Complete this form after the establishment observation and manager interview are conducted, and sampling activities are complete.

1. Date the establishment was identified for an environmental assessment (MM/DD/YYYY):						
2. Date of first contact with establishment management (MM/DD/YYYY):						
3. Number of visits to the establishment to complete this environmental assessment:						
	Number of contacts with the establishment of with staff, email) to complete this environment	#:				
5.	Facility type	O Camp	O Mobile fo	od unit		
		O Caterer	O Nursing h	nome		
		O Church	O Tempora	ry food stand		
		O Correctional facility	O Restaura	nt		
		O Daycare center	O Restaura	nt in a superm	narket	
		O Feeding site	O School fo	od service		
		O Food cart	O Workplac	e cafeteria		
		O Grocery store	•	nome-based fo	od operati	on
		O Hospital	O Other, De		•	
		•	·			
	How many critical violations/priority items/prioroutine inspection?	ority foundation items were	noted during	the last	#:	
	6a. If critical violations were noted: Mark any	of the following observed	during the las	t routine inspe	ection.	
	Improper hot/cold holding temperatur	es of foods (TCS/PHF)		O Yes O	No	
2. Improper cooking temperatures of food						
3. Soiled and/or contaminated utensils and equipment O Yes O						
4. Poor employee health and hygiene O Yes O					No	
5. Food from unsafe sources O Yes O						
6. Other O Yes O						
	Was an interpreter needed to communicate vassessment?	vith the kitchen manager d	luring the envi	ronmental	O Yes	O No
7a. If an interpreter was needed: Was an interpreter used to communicate with the kitchen manage						ON C
	Was an interpreter needed to communicate vassessment?	vith the food workers durin	g the environ	mental	O Yes	O No
	8a. If an interpreter was needed: Was a interp	oreter used to communica	te with the foo	od workers?	O Yes	O No
9.	Establishment type:					
Prep-serve=all food items are prepared and served without a kill step.						Serve
Cook-serve=at least one food item is prepared for same day service and involves a kill step.						Serve
Complex=at least one food item requires a kill step and holding beyond same-day service or a ki step and some combination of holding, cooling, freezing, reheating.						ex
10. Do customers have direct access to unpackaged food such as a buffet line or salad bar in this establishment?						O No
11.	Does the establishment serve raw or undercany menu item?	cooked animal products (ex	x: oysters, she	ell eggs) in	O Yes	O No
	11a. If establishment serves raw or undercorregarding the risk of consuming raw or menu, on a sign)?		O Yes	O No		

	11a1. If establishment serves raw or undercooked animal products and has an advisory: Where is the consumer advisory located? (Check all that apply)		☐ On the menu as a footnote ☐ On the menu in the menu item description ☐ On a sign ☐ Other, <i>Describe:</i>		
12.	12. Which one of these options best describes the menu for this establishment?		O American (non-er O Chinese O Thai O Mediterranean/ N O Other, Describe:	thnic) O Frenc O Italian O Mexic Middle Eastern O Japan	an
	amples				
13.	Were any samples taken in this establishment?	O Yes If an	ny samples were posi	itive, complete Part VI, F	Positive samples
	13a. If environmental samples were taken: Where were they taken? (Check all locations that apply and enter the number of samples taken at each location)	-	ep table, #: ex: tongs, pan),	☐ Inside any cooling unin, reach-in), #: ☐ Inside any heating uning Unit wall, ceiling, #: ☐ Floor (ex., floor, floother, #: Describe:	nit #:
	13b. If food samples were taken: What foods or ingredients were sampled? (Check all that apply and enter the number of samples taken of each food.)	□ Specific f Name □ Multi-ingr Name □ Multi-ingr Name □ Multi-ingr Name □ Multi-ingr	food ingredient A, #: food ingredient B, #: food ingredient C, #: food ingredient D, #: food ingredient C, #: food ingredient D, #: food ingredient Food D, #: food ingredient Food D, #:	h the multi- ingredient food	d name(s) given in

<u>Part Va- Suspected/confirmed foods</u>: Complete this section for each suspected/confirmed food.

Suspected/confirmed food #	#:
What is the name of the suspected or confirmed ingredient/food vehicle? <i>Note</i> : Name should match Part I, #10.	
2. Is this food a single specific ingredient or multi- ingredient?	Single specific ingredient food (ex: ground beef)Multi-ingredient food (ex: hamburger sandwich)
 Select the reason that best describes how this single specific ingredient or multi-ingredient food was implicated in the outbreak. (Check all that apply) 	 Outbreak agent was not identified in clinical or environmental samples, but the ingredient/food has historically been associated with the suspected agent based on clinical information (ex: ill persons' symptoms suggest a particular agent and the ingredient is commonly associated with that agent, ex: histamine reaction and fish suggest scombroid poisoning) Ingredient/food was epidemiologically linked with cases (not statistically significant). Ingredient/food was epidemiologically linked with cases (statistically significant). Agent was confirmed in samples of an epidemiologically linked food. Agent was confirmed in clinical samples. Isolates from clinical and food samples closely related or identical by molecular typing. Other, Describe:
4. Which of the following best describes the food preparation process used for this specific ingredient or multi-ingredient food before consumption?	 Prep-Serve: NO kill step; may include heating commercially prepared foods for service. Cook-Serve: Kill step; may be followed by hot holding but is prepared for same-day service. Complex 1: Kill step, followed by holding beyond same-day service. Complex 2: Kill step, followed by holding and cooling. Complex 3: Kill step, followed by holding, cooling, and reheating. Complex 4: Kill step, followed by holding, cooling, freezing, and reheating.
5. During the likely time the ingredient/food was prepared, were any events noted that appeared to be different from the ordinary operating circumstances or procedures, as described by managers and/or workers?	O Yes O No
5a. If events appeared to be different from ordinary circumstances: How would those events best be characterized? (Check all that apply)	Differences with: ☐ Ingredient(s) used (ex: different source or form, a substitution) ☐ How ingredient(s) were handled ☐ Method of preparation, cooking, holding, serving the food ☐ Equipment used to store or hold the food ☐ Equipment used to clean/sanitize food contact surfaces ☐ Employees involved in preparing, cooking, holding, and/or serving food ☐ Ill employees ☐ Equipment used to handle the food ☐ Ill family members ☐ Equipment used to cook the food ☐ Other, Describe:

<u>Part Vb- Suspected/confirmed food, ingredients</u>: Complete this section for EACH ingredient in the suspected/confirmed food(s).

1. Name of ingredient	
If any information is present (product manifests, reingredient is an imported food item or from an una	
 Did any of the following intend for the food to be co (Check all that apply) 	onsumed <u>raw or undercooked</u> ? ☐ Manufacturer/Processor ☐ Establishment ☐ Customer ☐ N/A ☐ Unknown
4. If ingredient is:	
a. Poultry, Select the type:	O Chicken O Goose O Other (ex: emu), <i>Describe</i> : O Turkey O Duck
b. Seafood, Select the type:	O Fin fish (ex: trout, cod) O Crustaceans (ex: shrimp) O Other seafood, <i>Describe</i> : O Shellfish (ex: oysters) O Marine mammals (ex: dolphins)
c. Beef, pork, lamb, other meat, Select the type:	O Beef O Lamb O Pork O Miscellaneous meat (ex: goat, rabbit), Describe:
d. Poultry, seafood, beef, pork, lamb, other meat, Select the best description of the product upon arrival at the food service establishment:	O Raw, nonfrozen O Raw, frozen O Raw, intended for raw service (ex: oysters, steak tartare) C Commercially processed precooked, may require heating for palatability (ex: deli meat, hot dogs, fully cooked frozen fish heated for service) Commercially processed, further cooking required (ex: chicken nuggets that require full cooking)
Dairy, Select the best description of the product upon arrival at the food service establishment:	O Pasteurized fluid milk O Pasteurized dairy product, Describe: O Unpasteurized fluid milk O Unpasteurized dairy product, Describe: O Cheese, Describe:
f. Eggs, Select the best description of the product upon arrival at the food service establishment:	O Pasteurized in-shell eggs O Pasteurized egg product O Unpasteurized egg product Describe the egg ingredient:
g. If ingredient is a plant or plant product, Select the type:	O Fruit (ex: apples, berries, citrus) O Nuts/Seeds (ex: pecans, sesame Seeds) Grains/Cereal products (ex: bread, pasta) O Fungi (ex: mushrooms) Grains/Cereals (ex: rice, wheat, oats) O Produce Describe the plant ingredient:
h. If ingredient is produce, Select the type:	O Greens (ex: romaine, spinach) O Sprouts (ex: alfalfa) Describe the produce ingredient: O Root vegetable (ex: potatoes, garlic) O Vine or above ground vegetable (ex: asparagus, black beans)
i. If ingredient is a plant or plant product, Select the best description of the plant product upon arrival at the food service establishment:	O Raw, whole, nonfrozen (ex: green beans) Commercially processed fresh product (ex: bagged lettuce) Raw, frozen (ex: frozen corn) Commercially processed - canned O Dried Raw, frozen (ex: frozen corn) O Other, Describe:
j. If ingredient is not described in the previous categories, Describe the ingredient:	

<u>Part VI- Positive samples:</u> Complete this section for each positive sample.

Positive sample #:	Date sample was collected (DD/MM/YYYY):						
1. Describe the agent(s) found in the	a. Agent (Check all that apply	·)	b. Serotype, if identifie	d c. Matched a clinical sai	mple		
sample:	☐ Hepatitis A			O Yes O No			
	☐ Bacillus cereus		O Yes O No				
	☐ Campylobacter			O Yes O No			
	☐ Clostridium perfringens	O Yes O No					
	☐ Cryptosporidium			O Yes O No			
	☐ Cyclospora		O Yes O No				
	☐ <i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7			O Yes O No			
	☐ E. coli STEC/VTEC						
	☐ Listeria	O Yes O No					
	□ Norovirus			O Yes O No			
	☐ Salmonella			O Yes O No			
	☐ Shigella			O Yes O No			
	☐ Staphylococcus aureus	O Yes O No					
	☐ Vibrio parahaemolyticus	O Yes O No					
	☐ Yersinia	O Yes O No					
	☐ Ciguatera toxin	O Yes O No					
	☐ Scombrotoxin	O Yes O No					
	☐ Toxic agent, Describe:	O Yes O No					
	☐ Chemical hazard, Descr	O Yes O No					
	☐ Physical hazard, Describ	O Yes O No					
	☐ Other, Describe:			O Yes O No			
2. Where was the sample taken?	O Floor drain	O Slicer		O Wall, ceiling			
	O Food prep table	O Inside any cooling unit	(ex: walk-in_reach-in)	O Floor (ex: floor itself, floo	r mat)		
	O Utensil (ex: tongs, pan)	O Inside any heating unit	,	O Other, <i>Describe</i> :			
	O Sink	• moide any neating and	•	Other, Decombe.			
	The name given below should match the specific food name given in Part Va.						
	O Specific food ingredient, <i>Describe</i> :						
	The name given below should match the multi- ingredient food name given in Part Vb.						
	O Multi-ingredient food, Desc		5				
3. Provide any other information about t	ne specific sample. (ex: presence/						
absence, detect/non-detect, and results w	absence, detect/non-detect, and results with a value (pH, X ppm, X cfu/g))						

Part VII – Contributing factors: Complete this section for each identified contributing factor in this outbreak.

Reference document: Foodborne Illness Outbreak Contributing Factors

1. Which contributing factors were identified? (Check all that apply.)						
Contamination These factors relate to how the etiologic agent got onto or into the food.	Proliferation Select these factors for bacterial and fungal outbreaks only. Learn more <u>here</u> .	Survival These factors are for bacterial, viral, parasitic, or fungal outbreaks only. Learn more here.				
N/A or None found	N/A or None found	N/A or None found				
□ <u>C1</u>	□ <u>P1</u>	□ <u>S1</u>				
□ <u>C2</u>	□ <u>P2</u>	□ <u>S2</u>				
□ <u>C3</u>	□ <u>P3</u>	□ <u>S3</u>				
□ <u>C4</u>	□ <u>P4</u>	□ <u>S4</u>				
□ <u>C5</u>	□ <u>P5</u>	□ <u>S5</u>				
□ <u>C6</u>	□ <u>P6</u>	S6 Other process failures that permit pathogen survival (specify):				
□ <u>C7</u>	□ <u>P7</u>					
□ <u>C8</u>	□ <u>P8</u>					
□ <u>C9</u>	□ <u>P9</u>					
□ <u>C10</u>	□ <u>P10</u>					
□ <u>C11</u>	P11 Other situations that promoted or allowed microbial growth of toxic production (specify):					
□ <u>C12</u>						
C13 Other source of contamination (specify):						
2. In your judgment, which of these contributing factors was this the primary contributing factor for this outbreak? (Enter only one contributing factor.)						
3. Briefly explain why each selected factor is a contributing factor in this outbreak. (Answer this question for each contributing factor identified.)						